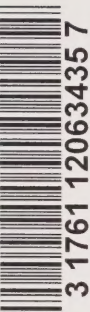




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**MacKenzie's expedition carries Stay-in-School message**

Ottawa -- A federal funding contribution of \$ 372,926 was announced today by the Honourable Pierre H. Cadieux, Minister of State for Youth, Fitness and Amateur Sport for an educational re-enactment of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's exploration voyage through central Canada.

The 36 voyageurs, with three replicas of the fur traders' canoes, will visit more than 300 schools this spring to offer elementary and secondary school students a historical experience along with a modern-day message to stay in school.

Organized by Lakehead University of Thunder Bay, it is part of a four-year "Sea-to-Sea" project retracing the voyages of Mackenzie across Canada 200 years old.

In announcing the federal support for the spring visitation program Mr. Cadieux said: "This project makes history live through the actions of these young voyageurs and emphasizes, in graphic fashion the importance of education."

This first phase of the project involved travel from Alberta to the Arctic Ocean, faithfully following Mackenzie's navigational error northward when he thought he was heading west. Mackenzie returned to England for further navigational training before setting out again to complete his voyage to the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Cadieux said the re-enactment venture provides a unique opportunity for students to make practical links between their education and history. He commended Lakehead University and its president, Dr. Robert Roseheart, for developing the project.

Half of the funding contribution has been made under Challenge '91, the federal government's summer student employment program.

The school visitation portion of the Sea-to-Sea expedition is being funded under the federal government's Stay-in-School initiative, a five-year program to reduce the 30 per cent dropout rate among high school students. The initiative is designed to create general awareness of the economic and social costs associated with young people dropping out of school.

Employment and Immigration Canada studies show that more than 60 per cent of the jobs being created this decade will require 12 or more years of education.

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